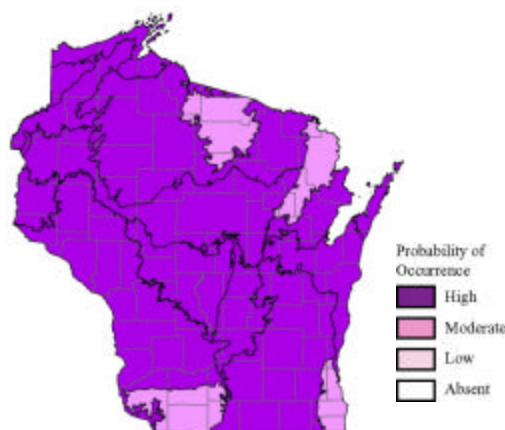


Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*)

Species Assessment Scores*

State rarity:	3
State threats:	4
State population trend:	2
Global abundance:	3
Global distribution:	1
Global threats:	3
Global population trend:	4
Mean Risk Score:	2.9
Area of importance:	4

* Please see the [Description of Vertebrate Species Summaries \(Section 3.1.1\)](#) for definitions of criteria and scores.



Ecological Landscape Associations

Please note that this is not a range map. Shading does not imply that the species is present throughout the Landscape, but represents the probability that the species occurs somewhere in the Landscape.

Landscape-community Combinations of Highest Ecological Priority

Ecological Landscape	Community
Central Sand Hills	Wet-mesic prairie
Central Sand Plains	Northern sedge meadow
Central Sand Plains	Surrogate grasslands
North Central Forest	Northern sedge meadow
Northern Lake Michigan Coastal	Northern sedge meadow
Northwest Lowlands	Northern sedge meadow
Northwest Sands	Northern sedge meadow
Northwest Sands	Surrogate grasslands
Southeast Glacial Plains	Mesic prairie
Southeast Glacial Plains	Surrogate grasslands
Southeast Glacial Plains	Wet-mesic prairie
Western Coulee and Ridges	Surrogate grasslands
Western Prairie	Mesic prairie
Western Prairie	Surrogate grasslands

Threats and Issues

- Succession of preferred habitats to shrubland and woodland, due to lack of fire or other management to suppress woody growth.
- Flooding of wet meadows.
- Intensification of agriculture, including early and frequent harvest of hay and conversion of idle grassland and wet meadows to harvested cropland - especially row crops - or to tree plantations.
- Loss of grassland habitat due to development.
- Disturbance of grassland nesting cover during the breeding season.
- Habitat fragmentation is an issue for this area-sensitive species.
- Overgrazing reduces habitat quality for this species.
- Aggressive invasive forbs, including yellow parsnip, crown vetch, leafy spurge, thistles, reed canary grass, and some goldenrods, can degrade habitat quality of grasslands for this species.

- Agricultural pesticides may pose a threat to this species.

Priority Conservation Actions

- Keep agricultural set-aside programs in place, especially those that allow for permanent protection of preferred habitats.
- Work with planning and zoning authorities to protect valuable open grassland landscapes from being converted to urban or suburban development.
- Provide incentives for delaying hay harvest until after the breeding season.
- Partnerships are key for conserving this species in working agricultural landscapes.
- Conduct research to determine if wind farm development harms this species.
- Work to maintain healthy populations of grassland small mammals as a prey base via maintenance of extensive open and idle grasslands.